The Claims

1. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a client computer to,

provide skimming level selection information to a user based on a plurality of available skimming levels, and

receive a skimming level selection from the user; and

a server computer, coupled to the client computer, to,

receive the skimming level selection from the client computer,

use a playlist of multimedia content corresponding to the skimming level selection, the playlist identifying segments, corresponding to the skimming level selection, of the multimedia content, and

provide, to the client computer in response to receipt of the skimming level selection from the client computer, the segments of the multimedia content identified by the playlist.

2. (Original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the client computer presents a user interface with the segments identified by the playlist.

3. (Original) A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the client computer provides, via the user interface, an input mechanism through which the user can input a skimming level selection.

4. (Original) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein the input mechanism comprises a plurality of skimming level selection buttons.

5. (Original) A system as recited in claim 3, wherein the input mechanism comprises a rotatable dial via which a skimming level can be identified.

6. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the rotatable dial comprises a graphical dial.

7. (Currently amended) A method for providing a skimmed version of multimedia content, the method comprising:

accessing first skimming information corresponding to a first skimming level of a plurality of previously generated skimming levels of the multimedia content;

using the first skimming information to access a first plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the first skimming level; ~~and~~

forwarding the first plurality of segments to a client computer;

receiving a selection of a second skimming level of the plurality of previously generated skimming levels from the client computer while the first plurality of segments are being forwarded to the client computer;

accessing second skimming information corresponding to the second skimming level;

using the second skimming information to access a second plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the second skimming level; and

forwarding the second plurality of segments to the client computer.

8. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the forwarding the first plurality of segments comprises streaming the accessed first plurality of segments to the client computer.

9. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the using the first skimming information comprises generating a playlist based on the first skimming information.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7[[10]], wherein the receiving further comprises receiving an indication of a current presentation time of the first plurality of segments.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the indication comprises the presentation time referenced to the timeline of the multimedia content.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the indication comprises a current segment of the first plurality of segments and an offset into the current segment.

14. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7[[10]], wherein the forwarding of the second plurality of segments comprises:

identifying a current presentation time of the first plurality of segments;

identifying a time in the second plurality of segments that corresponds to the current presentation time; and

forwarding the second plurality of segments to the client computer starting with the time in the second plurality of segments that corresponds to the current presentation time of the first plurality of segments.

15. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a computer to perform the method recited in claim 7.

Claims 16-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) A method for presenting a skimmed version of multimedia content, the method comprising:

accessing first skimming information corresponding to a first skimming level of a plurality of previously generated skimming levels of the multimedia content;

using the first skimming information to generate a playlist identifying a first plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the first skimming level;

retrieving the first plurality of segments from a storage device; and

presenting the first plurality of segments as the skimmed version.

22. (Original) A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the retrieving comprises:

transmitting the playlist to a server computer; and

receiving the first plurality of segments from the server computer.

23. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

receiving user input identifying a second skimming level of the plurality of previously generated skimming levels while the first plurality of segments is being presented;

accessing second skimming information corresponding to the second skimming level;

using the second skimming information to generate a second playlist identifying a second plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the second skimming level;

retrieving the second plurality of segments from the storage device; and

presenting the second plurality of segments as the skimmed version.

24. (Original) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the retrieving of the second plurality of segments comprises:

transmitting the second playlist to a server computer; and

receiving the second plurality of segments from the server computer.

25. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 21.

Claims 26-34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the skimming level selection information provided to the user is based on a plurality of playlists previously generated and accessible to the server computer.

36. (New) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to provide a skimmed version of multimedia content by:

accessing first skimming information corresponding to a first skimming level of a plurality of previously generated skimming levels of the multimedia content;

using the first skimming information to access a first plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the first skimming level;

forwarding the first plurality of segments to a client computer;

receiving a selection of a second skimming level of the plurality of previously generated skimming levels from the client computer while the first plurality of segments are being forwarded to the client computer;

accessing second skimming information corresponding to the second skimming level;

using the second skimming information to access a second plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the second skimming level; and

forwarding the second plurality of segments to the client computer.

37. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the forwarding the first plurality of segments comprises streaming the accessed first plurality of segments to the client computer.

38. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the using the first skimming information comprises generating a playlist based on the first skimming information.

39. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the receiving further comprises receiving an indication of a current presentation time of the first plurality of segments.

40. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 39, wherein the indication comprises the presentation time referenced to the timeline of the multimedia content.

41. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 39, wherein the indication comprises a current segment of the first plurality of segments and an offset into the current segment.

42. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 36, wherein the forwarding of the second plurality of segments comprises:

identifying a current presentation time of the first plurality of segments;

identifying a time in the second plurality of segments that corresponds to the current presentation time; and

forwarding the second plurality of segments to the client computer starting with the time in the second plurality of segments that corresponds to the current presentation time of the first plurality of segments.

43. (New) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to present a skimmed version of multimedia content by:

accessing first skimming information corresponding to a first skimming level of a plurality of previously generated skimming levels of the multimedia content;

using the first skimming information to generate a playlist identifying a first plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the first skimming level;

retrieving the first plurality of segments from a storage device; and

presenting the first plurality of segments as the skimmed version.

44. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, wherein the retrieving comprises:

transmitting the playlist to a server computer; and

receiving the first plurality of segments from the server computer.

45. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, the instructions further causing the one or more processors to present the skimmed version of multimedia content by:

receiving user input identifying a second skimming level of the plurality of previously generated skimming levels while the first plurality of segments is being presented;

accessing second skimming information corresponding to the second skimming level;

using the second skimming information to generate a second playlist identifying a second plurality of segments of the multimedia content that correspond to the second skimming level;

retrieving the second plurality of segments from the storage device; and

presenting the second plurality of segments as the skimmed version.

46. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 45, wherein the retrieving of the second plurality of segments comprises:

transmitting the second playlist to a server computer; and

receiving the second plurality of segments from the server computer.